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# THE EVENING BULLETIN. ORIGIN OF HAWAIIAN CONSTITUTIONS

Was a Missionary Suggestion Framed on the Great Anglo-Saxon Models.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It must be very gratifying to every one interested in education to know that the energetic General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, under whose auspices we meet tonight, has es tablished a course of lectures on popular subjects for the public entertainment and instruction. This course has been successful thus far and though the subject given me, "The Constitutions of Hawaii," may not seem to be one which would interest the public generally, I shall endeavor to

A constitution, in the sense in which it is used in my subject, is the organic law of the State. It is the system of fundamental principles, maxims, laws or rules embodied in written documents or established by prescriptive usage for the government of the nation. enlarged or repealed as a nation progresses and, therefore, the his-These principles may be amended, progresses and, therefore, the history of the Constitution of one nation or state be said to be very largely the political history of that nation or state. This is em-phatically true of Hawaii nei. Hawaii has had five written constitutions since the death of Kamehameha the First, the conqueror who consolidated all the islands of this archipelago under his sole sway. These are the Constitutions of 1840, 1852, 1864, 1887 and the present one of the new Republic of Hawaii promulgated in 1894. Those of 1840 and 1852 were promulgated and adopted peacefully during the reign of Kamehameha forced by the people from Kalakaua. Both of these revolutions were successful. It would be inaccurate to say that Hawaii had no constitution previous to the promulgation of its first written constitution in 1840 by Kamehameha the III. There existed here certain usages and principles regulating society in its various aspects, political, social, religious and economic. These formed the Constitution of Hawaii-unwritten certainly, and somewhat elastic — but none the less elastic - but none the less a constitution. It was not a state of anarchy and chaos that existed here. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has no publish laws against murder, written constitution, but it has its constitution. They are defined as "not formulated in any one document or set of documents, but they are the gradual development of the political intelligence of the English people as embodied in concessions forced from unwilling sovereigns, in the results of various revolutions, in numerous fundamental enact-ments of parliament and in the established principles of the common law." All patriotic Englishmen point with pride to Magna Charta, the Habeas Corpus Act and the Bill of Rights. The people of the United States are heirs to their rich inheritance, and we in Hawaii share in their beneficent provisions. These glorious principles are not entailed to the sons of England. No law of primogeniture can deprive us of our share of this heritage, and they have been incorporated into the various constitutions of Hawaii,

thanks to the Anglo-Saxon char-

acter of the civilization, both reli-

gious and commercial, which has

Kamehameha I, died in 1819. The forty-one years that had elapsed since 1778 when Captain Cook discovered these islands had brought some foreign commerce to these shores, and with it some knowledge of civilization. Sandal wood was then the main product of these islands, and was its medium of exchange. It was cut in the mountains, brought down on men's for clothing, hardware and gew-gaws. Kamehameha I. bought chiefesses. Don Francisco De vegetables to these islands in 1791. The next year Vancouver brought other plants and in 1793 cattle and sheep. Commerce gradually increased. There was some trading with Boston and some little good done, but for the most part the foreign settlers of these islands were immoral and worthless. The most intelligent stayed here for what pecuniary profit they could living upon the chiefs, receiving much for which they gave little. No printing press, no school house, no hospital was thought of for Hawaii by these settlers. But writing, published books, established schools, preached the gospel, taught morality, built churches, encouraged agriculture, softened the people, enlarged their ideas, won the confidence of the claims. But as the foreign pop-ulation increased and ships visited more frequently and consuls from the great powers were appointed, generally from among in land." previous residents who were vigilant to interfere for the redress of both real and fancied The chief might send his head through the streets. Kaahumanu, the Queen Regent during the minority of Kauikeaouli (Kamehameha III.) had, in the last tour she made of the group, proclaimed her well-known edict concerning marriage. This was in 1830-1 and made valid the union of couples Section I. reads: "No which oftentimes resulted in serious riots, led the Regent and her Council of Chiefs to write out and thus expressing their idea. theft, adultery, rum-selling and gambling. This was in December, 1827. But it was not until religion.

an chiefs had of themselves brings evil on the kingdom." Reany conception of the advisability of a constitution. To them, laws regulating human conduct, especially of all persons below them in rank, natives and for-eigners, would be sufficient. But they must have been advised by Mr. Richards, who delivered lectures on political economy to the king and chiefs and others at Lahaina, that it would be graceful and appropriate for the king and chiefs to formulate the rules and maxims in accordance with the First Constitution of Hawaii jury of others. brought these islands to their pre- was drafted. The Bill of Rights

thereafter no law of the kingdom

October, 1840. It was a great them face to face and be tried ac step for those haughty chiefs to cording to law.

take, for it defined and therefore Section V. disqualified any curtailed the hitherto unlimited power of the king and the very great authority of the chiefs over their tenants who were almost peons or slaves. It is a simple instrument, couched damages, it shall be discovered in crude language, especially in the English translation. But it acted corruptly to help his friend contains all the essential guaran- or to enrich himself, there shall the English translation. But it shoulders to the shores and then bartered by the king and chiefs tees of liberty which had been been alothing hardware and gew- wrenched from unwilling sovereigns of England in the Magna small vessels, guns and rum mostly. But as the sandalwood went
to China the vessels brought back
crepe shawls, silks, camphor
trunks, etc., which delighted the and blessedness." This taught the brotherhood of man and Paulo Marin, called "Manini," the brotherhood of man and brought valuable trees, plants and its plain effect was to lessen the jealousy of the natives against foreigners. "God hath also bestowed certain rights alike on all men and all chiefs and all people of all lands." It next se cured to every one life, limb, freedom from oppression, the earnings of his hands and the productions of his mind. In this last phrase we find the foundation for the what pecuniary profit they could copyrighting of literary produc-get, the worst stayed as idlers tions and for the patenting of useful inventions.

> The next paragraph forbids class legislation and secures equality of

taxation. A most important provision to the foreigners settled here secured "protection to the persons of all the people, together with their lands, their building lots (house lots in the towns) and all their property, so long as they conform to the laws of the Kingdom, and nothing whatever shall be taken from any individual exfeeling of security unknown be-fore and formed the first step in establishing individual property

Hawaiian's property was safe. in his lifetime.

Section I. reads: "No law shall be enacted which is at variance morality from the missionaries, only text book for regulation of moral conduct known to them, they were not far from wrong in manifest object was to reject Idolatry as the state religion and recognize Monotheism as the true

should take effect without having been first printed and made public.

Him, according to their own law."

It is the control of I don't suppose the Hawaii- unless he injures his neighbor or ands were under the sway of other ligion here meant the Christian religion, both Roman Catholic and reduced them under one govern Protestant. They knew no other

French bayonets. Section III. This article prowhich the powers of sovereignty should be habitually exercised. wrongs, public and private; and There had occurred the con-This is in fact what Judge Cooley | that no law should be passed for | spiracies of Boki, Liliha and Kadefines a constitution to be. So the benefit of some and to the in-

Section IV. secured that no existed among the chiefs as

was promulgated June 7, 1839, at one should be arbitrarily punish-Lahaine. Maui, where the council ed without proof of his offense, or was held, and the entire Constitu- without trial in the presence of old, and his former Promiers, Kation at Honolulu on the 8th his accusers. The accused to meet

Section V. disqualified any judge or juror, whether commoner or chief, from sitting to try his close friend or near relative. that any of the judges shall have judges." This secured the right to a new trial for prejudice. Then him belonged the land from Halonged to the chiefs and people in common of whom Kamehameha I. was the head, and had the man-

"The supreme authority was in Kamehameha I., and is now in Kamehameha III. These only had the authority of the govern-ment up to this time, and all documents issued by them are valid and none other." This was in-serted because some foreigners would claim that conveyances of land and other concessions signed by other chiefs bound the State.

"The kingdom is confirmed to Kamehameha III. and his sisters." He had no child and so it was provided that the heir to the throne should be the one appointed by him and the chiefs, during his lifetime; failing to make an appointment the appointment shall rest with the chiefs and the office when Kaahumanu held this position with Kamahamaha I chiefs and people, stood between them and the unprincipled for eigner and warded off unjust claims. But as the foreign pop-

"Constitution," but the Bill of three days' labor a month to the Rights is republished as the first king as representing the govern-part of the Constitution. king as representing the govern-ment. They worked on the roads, bridges and buildings and on then subsisting, without further ceremony. Complications with foreigners increased. The troubles between licentifications of His word." This did not establish a theorem would lish a theorem would be a some would lish a theorem with the general spirit of the lands whose annual lish a theorem would lish a theorem with the word of the Lord Jehov called upon to do. It went so far as to forfeit to the king the lands whose annual lish a theorem with the word of the Lord Jehov called upon to do. It went so far as to forfeit to the king the lands whose annual lish a theorem with the word of the Lord Jehov called upon to do. It went so far as to forfeit to the king the lands whose annual lish a theorem with the word of the Lord Jehov called upon to do. tribute was not paid. The king was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and was to execute all laws, decrees and treaties. His prerogative was to make treaties make war in time of emergency, when time would not allow the calling of the chiefs together. He 1840 that a law was passed by the Council of King and Chiefs that religion shall be protected in important questions which have worshipping Jehovah and serving | not been assigned to others by the

> It must be remembered that it was not long since the various islpowerful chiefs. The conquests of Kamehameha had only lately ment. The successors of many of forms except their own ancient these chiefs still survived and they Kaahumanu had persecuted the was to emphasize in plain lan-Romanists as worshippers of pic- guage the supremacy and prerotures and images and expelled the gatives of the king. It is noticepriests. They were finally brought back to the islands at the point of or sovereign in any part of this be more, as great jealousy still made Premier-a courtly gentle-

against each other. Moreover, the king was then only 27 years ahumanu and Kinau, had died, as had also the great warriors Kalanimoku and Hoapili and Kuakini (brother of Kaahumanu) all of whom had exercised great influence for good not only upon him personally, but upon the nation at large. Kamehameha III., his personal name being Kauikeaouli (Fixed-in-the-deep-blue-sky) was an amiable man of good and generous impulses, but rather weak especially in the control of his passion for drink. But he was quiet and unobtrusive in manner, never advancing or pushing any ciples on which the present dynasty is founded." It recites that "Kamehameha First was the Kamehameha First was the friends. Take it all in all he was been thing this people over ultra scheme of his own. He the best king this people ever waii to Niihau, though it was not had. He never made use of his his private property." "It beand never used money for vulgar or ostentations display. I think it most remarkable that he gave was the head, and had the management of the land. Therefore it has not been nor is it now allowable to sell even the smallest portion of land without the king's consent." For many years aliens were not allowed to hold land.

"The supreme authority was in "The supreme authorit brandy alone and had taken good care of his health he might have lived until today, for he would have been but 83 years old. If he had lived, under such a good king there is a strong probability that the form of government over us would still be that of a Constitutional Monarchy.

The next subject in this Constitution is that of the Kuhina

Nui. It reads that the king shall Representatives. Kamehameha position with Kamehameha I. III. left the kingdom by will to She had the power of life and The prerogatives of the king are mehameha II. The Constitution wrongs done to their citizens, it man on a foraging expedition and then defined. He is declared to declares that this office is perpebecame evident that there must be when he saw a pig that would suit be the sovereign of all the people tuated, and defines its powers. It III. That of 1864 was forced on the people by a coup d'etat of Kamehameha V. That of 1887 was mehameha V. That of 1887 was claim regulations as he marched the marched claim regulations as he marched claim regulations are regulated as he marched claim regulations are regulated as he marched claim regulations as he mar summarily by the chiefs who held them, by the word "Hemo," labor days. The entire ableheld them, by the word "Hemo," labor days. The entire able-(off). After the Bill of Rights, bodied Hawaiian population were the declarations and acts of the follows what is therein called the in those times required to give constitution," but the Bill of three days' labor a month to the Kuhina are the declarations and acts of the king. He shall see (collect) all the property of the government and pass it over to the king. The Kuhina Nui shall have the say, together with the king, in all important matters of the kingdom. The king shall not do anything without the know-ledge of the Kuhina, nor shall the Kuhina do anything without the knowledge of the king; and if the king objects to his act that will with foreign powers and to receive | end it. But all important matters foreign representatives. Also to which the king wishes to do personally he may do, but the Kuhina must know of it," and to know of it was to consent to it. ] have not followed the published translation of this part of the Constitution, but I think I have conveyed the Hawaiian idea better in the translation above given. The power of the Kuhina Nui waned with the lessening strength of character of each successive incumbent. Kaahumanu was most powerful, even more so than the young king Kauikeaouli, whose regent she was during his minority, She died in 1832. Her successor Kinau, a daughter of Kamehameha I., exercised considerable influence and it was for good. On her death in 1838 Kekauluohi. neice of Kamehameha I., and mother of Lunalilo, succeededbut she had not force of character ancient document, but his title to take much interest in public throughout is "Ke 'Lii Nui," lit- affairs. On her death in 1845 who had become a companion inomi in turn and there might arms of Kamehameha I., was.

Continued on 4th page )